

Agenda Date: January 24, 2007
Item Number: B2

Docket: TG-061755

Company Name: Rabanco, LTD d/b/a Lynnwood Disposal, Maltby Division, G-12

Staff: Bob Colbo, Regulatory Analyst
Lynda Johnson, Consumer Program Specialist

Recommendation

1. Dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff Revisions filed by Rabanco LTD d/b/a Lynnwood Disposal, Maltby Division.
2. Allow the staff recommended revised temporary rates to become effective on February 1, 2007, on a permanent basis.

Discussion

On November 17, 2006, Rabanco LTD d/b/a Lynnwood Disposal, Maltby Division, G-12, (Lynnwood) filed proposed rates that would increase its current revenue by approximately \$261,700 (3.2%). Staff's review of the company's books and records found the proposed rates were excessive. On December 20, 2006, the company filed revised rates at the staff recommended level. The revised rates generate approximately \$160,200 (1.96 %).

Twenty-three customer comments have now been received on this filing – all opposed. Several comments disagreed with the large increase in recycling and yard waste service. Many felt it was too high and would discourage use of these services. Others cited poor customer service by the company and their representatives, especially during the recent snow storm when pickups were missed several times.

On December 27, 2006, the commission entered a Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions to allow customers the opportunity to comment on the revised rates before determining whether the revisions were fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. The commission allowed the revised rates to go into effect on a temporary basis January 1, 2007, subject to refund.

This filing increases solid waste rates. The company serves approximately 16,500 residential and 1,750 commercial customers in southwest unincorporated Snohomish County. On January 5, 2007, Consumer Affairs staff sent every customer who had commented on Lynnwood's filing a letter advising each respondent of staff's recommended revised rates. No customer has yet responded to the staff's letter. The recycle rate is now lower than what was originally proposed, and the company picked up missed pickups during the snowstorm without any additional charges to customers.

The table below provides a sample of present, proposed and revised rates:

<u>Service Category</u>	<u>Present Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Rate</u>	<u>Revised Rate</u>
<u>Residential - wkly svc., monthly rate</u>			
Mini Can	\$5.05	\$5.10	\$5.05
One Can	\$9.05	\$9.15	\$9.05
Recycling	\$6.17	\$6.76	\$6.48
Yard Waste	\$6.29	\$7.04	\$7.04
<u>Commercial Containers</u>			
No Increases			
<u>Drop Box Service</u>			
25 Yd. Box			
Monthly Rent	\$36.00	\$50.00	\$36.00
per Pick Up	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$101.00
30 Yd. Box			
Monthly Rent	\$39.00	\$55.00	\$39.00
per Pick Up	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$101.00

Conclusion

Staff recommends that the commission dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions filed by Rabanco, LTD, d/b/a Lynnwood Disposal, Maltby Division, and allow revised temporary rates at staff recommended levels, to become effective February 1, 2007, on a permanent basis.